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Internationalization of Higher Education: New Directions, New Challenges
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The importance of internationalization of higher education

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Outline of the presentation

- Global trends in higher education
- UNESCO initiatives and achievements
- Challenges and prospects



Higher education and the global agenda

“...at no time in human history did the welfare (or poverty) of nations depend in such a direct manner on the quality and outreach of higher education systems and institutions”.

- 1998 World Declaration on Higher Education: global vision of the sector for the 21st century
- 2006: Growing recognition of the role of higher education in achieving goals of the global agenda: EFA, MDGs, sustainable development



Trends in global higher education

- **Demographic expansion:** 1.9% growth rate in developing countries between 1995-2000 and 1.7% in 2000-2005. These countries had around 4 billion people in 1990, expectations are 7-8 billion by 2025
- **Massification:** 132 million students enrolled in higher education in 2004, as compared to 68 million in 1991
- **Participation rates:** out of 100 adults of tertiary age, 69 are enrolled in tertiary education programmes in North America and Europe, but only five are enrolled in sub-Saharan Africa and 10 in South and West Asia



Trends in global higher education (cont'd)

- ***Global student mobility:*** Student mobility has nearly tripled since 1980 and has increased by 50% since 1998. In 2004, 2.5 million higher education students studied abroad of which 194,000 came from sub-Saharan Africa
- Six countries host 67% of the world's foreign or mobile students – with 23% studying in the United States, followed by the United Kingdom – 12%, Germany – 11%, France – 10%, Australia – 7% and Japan – 5%



Trends in global higher education (cont'd)

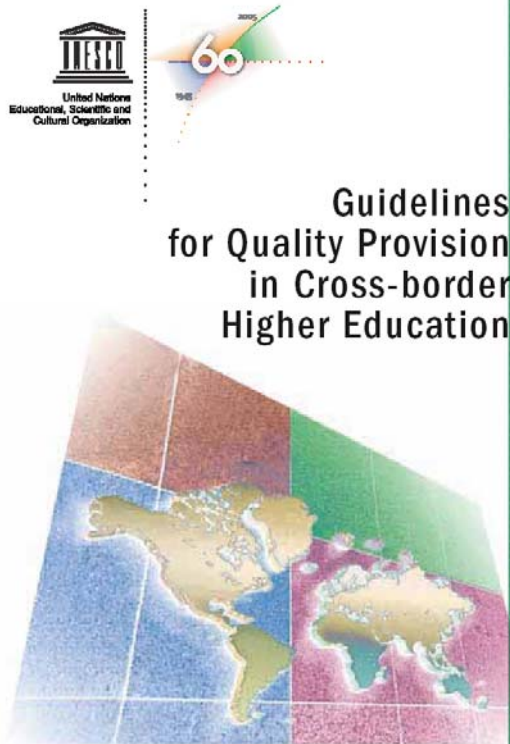
- ***Diversification of higher education provision:***
 - ✓ Private higher education
 - ✓ Distance education, open and e-learning
 - ✓ Growth of cross-border higher education: the demand for international education is forecast to increase from 1.8 million international students in 2000 to 7.2 million international students in 2025
- ***Quality and evaluation – through quality assurance and accreditation – are at the heart of national endeavours and regulation***



Facing the challenges in higher education: UNESCO response

- **The Global Forum on International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications:** new dimensions in quality assurance and qualifications recognition (2002; 2004)
- The 3rd Global Forum will be held in South Africa (mid-July 2007), in cooperation with the South African Ministry of Education and the Council on Higher Education

Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-Border Higher Education



- Universities as drivers of economic growth
- The growing market - Trade in Higher Education and GATS
- Need to provide an EDUCATIONAL response to maximize opportunities, minimize risks
- Hence, the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines: focus on quality and learners' protection



UNESCO Chairs Programme - Qualitative and quantitative achievements

- Transfer of high-level know-how
- Introduction of programme
- Innovations
- Responding to development needs
- Understanding of cultural diversity
- Permitting immediate response to changing needs
- Historically, there are 580 Chairs and 65 Networks in 124 countries
- 90 New Chairs and 4 Networks established between 2004 and 10 September 2006
- 354 Chairs and 26 networks reporting from 96 countries



Academics Across Borders Initiative

Focus on developing countries and more specifically on LDCs to:

- Improve **intellectual and research capacity** of UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs programme
- Improve performance of universities in the areas of research and programme development leading to the establishment of **centres of excellence**
- **Open access to university courses** across borders with possibilities for adaptation to local use
- Inter-continental dialogue/co-operation

Partnerships: Hewlett Packard

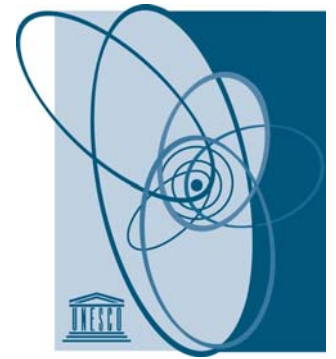


Brain Drain-Brain Gain

- South East Europe (2003): 7 universities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the FYR of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro
- Africa (2006): identifying partner universities in countries like Senegal, Zimbabwe, Ghana and others



UNESCO Forum on Higher Education, Research and Knowledge



- Intersectoral project funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- A platform for research on research systems in the knowledge society
- Forum activities: Global and Regional Committees with priority research objectives; strategic partnerships with IGOs, NGOs, civil society, the private sector; research colloquia and seminars; publications; the Global Archive: a resource for researchers



Challenges and prospects

- Increasing demand; the need for closer links with the world of work; the growing commercialization of higher education; globalization....

Higher education is well placed to meet these challenges – this requires global understanding and support for the critical role of higher education in developing human capacity needed to achieve national development and to meet the requirements of the global agenda